

REMARKS

The invention relates generally to a vasoocclusion coil comprising multiple windings of at least two diameters, where the proximal winding is of a smaller diameter, and -- most importantly -- where the proximal end of the coil -- the end which connects to and is released from the pusher wire -- is positioned radially inwardly of the larger diameter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e): Claims 1-5

Claims 1-5 stand (finally) rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,639,277, to Mariant et al. In support of the rejection, the Examiner suggests that Mariant et al. discloses a coil (140) with a first diameter (142), a second diameter (144), and a coupling member (Figs. 13 and 14).

Applicants respectfully submit that Mariant et al. does not disclose the invention claimed herein. Mariant et al. does not disclose placing the proximal end of the coil disclosed therein radially inwardly.

Before further comparing Mariant et al. and the present specification, Applicants wish to clarify the distinction between the embolic coils described in Mariant et al. and the present case. Mariant et al. discloses a coil (140) with a small *primary* (helical) coil comprising windings of constant diameter, and a larger *secondary coil shape* comprising the primary coil wound into large and small windings with a first and a second diameter (see, for example, column 3, lines 5 to 8, and reference numbers 142 and 144). The small primary coil has a *constant diameter*, as depicted in Fig. 13 (reference no. 143), Fig. 14 (159), and Fig. 16A (176). The invention of Mariant et al. focuses on winding the small helical primary coil into a secondary coil shape having various diameters (Fig. 2). Of particular importance is the fact that the Mariant et al. patent makes no suggestion relating to the spatial relationship between the coupling member and the interior of the coil's secondary shape.

In contrast, the present invention is strictly directed to a coil in which the coupling member is interior to the coil. This is important for several reasons. First, release of the coil away from the vessel wall allows the uncoupling to take place without interference from that wall. Secondly, the tendency for exterior joints potentially to cause damage to the intima is negated. Thirdly, the end of the coil is "buried" within the secondary structure of the coil and consequently does not serve as a *situs* for the formation of thrombus with its potential for downstream problems.

Mariant et al simply does not teach this important facet of the invention. anticipation is therefore impossible. Mariant et al does not suggest moving the proximal end into the interior of the coil structure. Mariant et al similarly does not serve as an appropriate basis for a rejection under 35 USC 103.

Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore requested.

SUMMARY

Applicants believe that the above amendments and remarks overcome the rejection made in the December 30, 1997, Office Action. Consequently, all the claims should now be allowable. Such allowance is therefore earnestly requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or requests, he is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the number listed below. If a personal interview is believed to be in any manner instructive as to expediting the conduct of the prosecution, he is invited to contact Applicants' attorney to set up such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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